Contract work on Bogibeel Bridge

1901. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that local contractors do not get contract work on Bogibeel bridge and approach road construction project;

(b) if so, whether Government would take action to do justice to the local contractors to defuse discontentment among them; and

(c) whether the Ministry will arrange to provide fast moving express goods train to carry various essential commodities in view of the transport bottleneck in the State of Assam due to unprecedent flood affecting the road transport system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) So far, all the contracts except one for work in connection with Bogibeel project pertaining to Railway's portion of work have been awarded to contractors who have been residing in Assam and working since long in the region. The construction of link road to main bridge is to be executed by National Highway Authority of India under Ministry of Road Transport & Highways who have yet to initiate the tender process.

(c) In order to meet the requirement of essential commodities during the flood in Assam, Railways (between 09.07.2004 to 11.08.2004) carried 114 rakes of foodgrains, 24 rakes of salt, 4 rakes of pulses, 8 rakes of edible oil, 8 rakes of sugar, 5 rakes of onion, 4 rakes of potato and 3 rakes of milk powder to North East Region from rest of the country. Railways accord high priority to loading and transportation of essential commodities to North Eastern Region during period of the flood.

System of Telescopic Fares

1902. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the public wants the system of "telescopic fares" restored;

(b) whether it is a fact that honest passengers are paying a heavy penalty by not having the "telescopic fare" facility;